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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/525,380	10/19/2005	Xiangdong Liu	L4050.0001	5184
32173 7590 09/15/2008 DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO LLP 1177 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS (6TH AVENUE) NEW YORK, NY 10036-2714				
EXAMINER				
SETO, JEFFREY K				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2146				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
09/15/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/525,380

Applicant(s)

LIU ET AL.

Examiner

Jeffrey Seto

Art Unit

2146

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 October 2005.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
7) ☒ Claim(s) 4 is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 October 2005 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/5508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10-19-2005
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to because some of the functional units in Figure 1 are missing reference numbers and all of the functional blocks in Figures 2-5 are missing reference numbers. Applicant is reminded that each reference number that is added to the Figures must also be added in the Specification, where appropriate. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

2. The Abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it contains 199 words. The Abstract must be limited to 150 words. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Objections

3. Claim 4 is objected to because of the following informalities: "the device announcement" in line 4 of the claim lacks antecedent basis. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(f) he did not himself invent the subject matter sought to be patented.

5. Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(f) as being anticipated by Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA).

6. Regarding claim 1, AAPA teaches a method of searching for devices automatically in a network, which is characterized in that it includes at least following steps of: a. firstly searching, by a device initiating party, whether a resource management device exists in the network when two devices are interconnected; if so, going to step c, otherwise going to step b;

b. announcing its own device information, by the device initiating party, to all other devices in the network, at the same time, monitoring announcement information of all

the other devices; when receiving information of other devices, sending a connection request from the device initiating party to a device requiring connection, and completing corresponding operations after receiving a response;

c. sending a device searching request from the device initiating party to the resource management device; upon receiving the request, making a search, by the resource management device, among device registration information stored therein; after a device satisfying conditions is found out, information related to that device being immediately sent to the device initiating party, otherwise, informing the device initiating party that the information is not found. See Applicant's Specification, p. 2, line 25 to p. 3, line 25.

7. Regarding claim 2, AAPA teaches wherein the step b further includes the step of: after receiving the request of the device initiating party, judging, by a requested party device, whether it is accepted or not; if it is accepted, sending a connection accepted response from the requested party device to the device initiating party and then performing device connecting between these two devices; otherwise, sending a connection rejected response from the requested party device to the device initiating party. See Specification p. 3, lines 18-25.

Any subject matter found the Background section of an Application may be used as prior art. It appears that Applicant was not aware of this fact and erroneously included a description of his invention in the Background section. Applicant may overcome the above rejection by deleting the material found in p. 2, line 25 to p. 3 line 25 of the Specification from the Background section, or moving it to the Summary or

Detailed Description section of the Specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

9. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S.

Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0035621 to Zintel, et al. (Zintel).

10. Regarding claim 1, Zintel teaches a method of searching for devices automatically in a network, which is characterized in that it includes at least following steps of: a. firstly searching, by a device initiating party, whether a resource management device exists in the network when two devices are interconnected; if so, going to step c, otherwise going to step b; (See page 2, paragraph 10, lines 2-10, and page 28, paragraphs 528 & 529.)

b. announcing its own device information, by the device initiating party, to all other devices in the network, at the same time, monitoring announcement information of all the other devices; when receiving information of other devices, sending a connection request from the device initiating party to a device requiring connection, and completing corresponding operations after receiving a response; (See p. 2, par.'s 12 & 13)

c. sending a device searching request from the device initiating party to the resource management device; upon receiving the request, making a search, by the

resource management device, among device registration information stored therein; after a device satisfying conditions is found out, information related to that device being immediately sent to the device initiating party, otherwise, informing the device initiating party that the information is not found. See p. 28, par.'s 532 & 533.

11. Regarding claim 2, Zintel teaches wherein the step b further includes the step of: after receiving the request of the device initiating party, judging, by a requested party device, whether it is accepted or not; if it is accepted, sending a connection accepted response from the requested party device to the device initiating party and then performing device connecting between these two devices; otherwise, sending a connection rejected response from the requested party device to the device initiating party. See p. 28, par. 530, lines 7-10, and par. 531, lines 10-14.

12. Regarding claim 3, Zintel further discloses wherein it further includes the step of: when each device applies to access the network, firstly registering its own device information onto the resource management device and forming a master-slave devices relation with the resource management device. See p. 28, par. 533 (wherein the directory effectively acts as the master to the newly added device).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

13. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Zintel, as applied to claim 3 above, or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Zintel, as applied to claim 3 above, in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0002473 to Waldo, et al. (Waldo).

14. Regarding claim 4, Zintel teaches wherein it further includes the step of: the resource management device announces its own device information in a multicasting manner, and before the device applying to access makes device registration, it firstly receives the device announcement information of the resource management device. See pp. 10 & 11, par. 187. Zintel may not clearly teach that the management device announces its own information before the newly added device registers with the management device, however, Waldo teaches this limitation (see pp. 3-4, par. 55, lines 1-6). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine the teachings of Waldo with the system of Zintel, since doing so would have made it clear to all newly added devices that there was a management device on the network, thereby preventing any delay or confusion on the newly added device's part, as to where to register and start communicating with other devices on the network.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey Seto whose telephone number is (571) 270-

7198. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday & alt. Fridays, 9am-6:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Pwu can be reached on (571) 272-6798. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JKS
8-30-2008

/Jeffrey Pwu/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2146